

While the powers of the Quadruple Alliance will withdraw their forces from Poland, in accordance with the principles of the Russian government, which has declared the right of all peoples living in Russia to self-determination, including even separation, the population of these districts will be given an opportunity within the shortest possible period of deciding entirely and freely the question of their union with one of the other empires or their formation into independent states.

"In this connection the presence of any troops, apart from national or local militia, in the territories which are voting shall not be permissible until this question is decided. The government of these regions will remain in the hands of representatives of the local population, elected democratically. The date of evacuation and other circumstances and the commencement of demobilization of the army are to be decided by a special military commission."

Germany then proposed the following form for the first articles of a preliminary treaty which is to be concluded: "First—Russia and Germany are to declare the state of war at an end."

"Both nations are resolved to live together in the future in peace and friendship on condition of complete reciprocity. Germany will be ready as soon as peace is concluded with Russia and the demobilization of the Russian army has been accomplished to evacuate her present positions in occupied Russian territory, in so far as no different inferences result from Article 2."

"Second—The Russian government, in accordance with its principles, proclaimed for all peoples, without exception, living within the Russian Empire the right of self-determination, including complete separation, takes cognizance of the decisions expressing the will of people demanding a full state of independence and separation from the Russian Empire for Poland, Lithuania, Courland and portions of Estonia and Livonia."

"The Russian government recognizes that in the present circumstances, these manifestations must be regarded as an expression of the will of the people, and is ready to draw conclusions therefrom. As in those districts to which the foregoing stipulations apply, the question of evacuation is not such as provided for in Article 1, a special commission shall discuss and fix the time and other details in conformity and in accordance with the Russian ideas of the necessary ratification by plebiscite on broad lines, and without any military pressure whatever, of the already existing proclamation of separation."

"The Austrian delegation made a similar statement. The Russian delegation took cognizance of these statements and set forth its standpoint as follows: "Our standpoint on only such manifestation of will can be regarded as a de facto expression of the will of the people as results from a free vote taken in the districts in question, with the complete absence of foreign troops. We therefore propose, and must insist thereon, that a clearer and more precise formulation of this point be made. We consent, however, to the appointment of a special commission for the examination of technical conditions for the realization of such referendums, and also for the fixing of a definite time for evacuation."

"In view of the course which the negotiations hitherto have taken, it may be stated with satisfaction that, regarding settlement of the most important questions, the views of the representative powers tally in many points, while regarding others the views approach each other to such an extent that hope for arriving at an agreement on the latter points is well founded."

A Petrograd dispatch of Thursday said the peace negotiations had been postponed for a few days to give the Entente nations opportunity to indicate whether they would participate. A message from Brest-Litovsk on the same day spoke of the continuation of the discussion and that the preliminary negotiations are being conducted during the recess.

Fierce Fighting at Irkutsk; City Reported to Be Afire

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Correspondents of Reuters' London office, Harbin, and Petrograd report fighting at Irkutsk, East Siberia, between regular troops and Red Guards and Cossacks and military units. The fighting is of a most ferocious character and has lasted nearly a week. The entire town is said to be afire. Some quarters have been destroyed.

Belgian Envoy in Petrograd Calls German Terms Useless

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Belgian Minister at Petrograd is quoted by the Exchange Telegraph correspondent there as having declared the German peace proposals to be unacceptable. A return to the status quo ante bellum would not solve a single problem of the war, in the minister's opinion. He added, the dispatch says, that the proposed terms failed to indicate any means for the prevention of future conflicts or for the removal of the causes which brought on the present war.

Bessarabia Declares Its Independence

PETROGRAD, Dec. 29.—Bessarabia has declared its independence as the Moldavian Republic, to form a part of the Russian Federated Republic.

Czernin Goes to Vienna to Discuss Results of Parley

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 30.—A dispatch from Vienna states that Count Czernin, spokesman for the Central Powers, left Brest-Litovsk on Friday evening for Vienna to discuss with the authorities the result of the first conference with the Russian peace delegates.

Press of Allies Will Get Baker's Weekly Reports

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—For the first time since Secretary Baker began issuing his weekly summaries of the war situation, copies of this week's statement are to be sent abroad by radio to be distributed to European papers.

The document will be turned over to the Navy Department tomorrow for transmission to various capitals where it will be made available to the British, French and other papers on the same date it is released for publication in the United States.

Kaledine Again Elected Chief By Cossacks

Moscow's Rail Connection With South Cut, No Food Arriving

Former Member Of Duma Murdered

Petrograd School Teachers Go on Strike Against Bolsheviks

LONDON, Dec. 30.—A telegram received in Petrograd from Novo Tcherkassk, capital of the territory of the Don Cossacks, announces that General Kaledine, who recently resigned as Hetman of the Cossacks on the ground that there was opposition to him at the front, has been reelected by 562 out of a total of 638 votes.

Moscow reports that railway communication with the South has been stopped, sections of the tracks have been destroyed and that no food supplies are arriving for the city.

The Petrograd "Den" states that the Cossack leader Karaulov, former member of the Duma, and his brother have been murdered while journeying from Vladikavkaz, in Caucasus, to Yekaterinburg to attend a Cossack military gathering.

Petrograd Teachers Strike. All teachers, male and female, in the municipal schools of Petrograd have gone on strike as a protest against the proceedings of the Bolsheviks, and intend to remain away from the schools pending the opening of the Constituent Assembly.

It is reported that an autonomous government has been formed in Turkestan, with M. Tynyasavali, a member of the second Duma, as Premier. The Siberian District Congress at Tomsk has elected a provisional government, headed by President Potanin, with a coalition cabinet which includes Constitutional Democrats.

The Bolshevik organ "Izvestia" insists on new elections of delegates to the Constituent Assembly in districts where those chosen "do not express popular will," such as constituencies where social revolutionaries and members of the right have been returned.

Ukrainian Delegates Get Support. The Petrograd Council of People's Commissaries has issued a statement supporting the Council of Soldiers' and Workers' Delegates of Ukraine, which has been established in opposition to the Ukrainian Rada as "the truly popular power" and the real government of this territory.

It promises the new government its fraternal support in "all works of peace" such as the handing over of land, factories, workshops and banks to the working classes.

Chinese Trying to Send Troops to Vladivostok

SHANGHAI, Dec. 30.—"The North China Daily News" says the situation at Harbin, Manchuria, is serious. The newspaper says also that Bolshevik disorders have occurred at Vladivostok and that the Chinese are endeavoring to send troops there.

Bolsheviks Celebrate Peace Negotiations; Assail Imperialists

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Dispatches from Petrograd say that the city was given over today to a celebration of the peace negotiations, as announced by the Bolsheviks. The welcomings were "Down With International Imperialism!" and "Long Live the Third International!"

Peace negotiations were held throughout the day. Processions marched over the snow-covered streets and centered at a mass held in the field, where the absence of the Russian government and the omission of the mentioning of Germany in the mottoes on the banners. The guards were mainly members of the Red Guard, soldiers, sailors and workmen and women.

The members of the German and Austrian peace delegations were spectators of the scene.

Silent crowds thronged the Nevsky Prospekt and other prominent thoroughfares, reading the peace banners carried by the marchers, but without applause. One banner bore the inscription: "No separate peace with the Kaiser; no union with the capitalists."

A few of the banners said: "Long live the Constituent Assembly." But the standards chiefly were streamers raising the workers' and Soldiers' Delegates and internationalism. Some banners bore the words: "To the trenches with the saboteurs." "Down with the Constitutional Democrats!" and similar mottoes discrediting the Constituent Assembly.

The processions were made up of military organizations, consisting of infantry, cavalry and artillery, and marines and sailors, which alternated with civil groups, the latter including women streetcar employees and the workers in various factories. The banners of the latter announced that their plants had been taken over by the government and demanded cooperation by the workers of the world.

On the Field of Wars, where the marchers saluted the graves of the first victims of the revolution, massed military bands played dirges throughout the day.

Ensign Krylenko, the Bolshevik commander in chief, has sent telegrams to all army committees regarding the Russian conditions of peace. He also has issued an order of the day calling on the troops to turn their arms against those who are standing in the way of the conclusion of peace.

A Petrograd dispatch from the Associated Press correspondent under Saturday's date says that Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, is expected to present a new communication to the Allies Sunday. This dispatch quotes Baron Adam Kereylik, former German military attaché at Petrograd and a member of the German peace delegation, as saying:

"The Germans quite frankly desire an honorable peace. The present attitude of Russia's allies apparently is a bar to this end. The attitude now between Russia and Germany is friendly, not one of enmity. Germany is now waiting to hear the Entente Allies' terms."

At the meeting of the German and

German Propaganda Delayed U.S. Entry Into War, Says Northcliffe

Tells of Influence of Teuton Portion of Population—He Finds America Enthusiastic but Practical, and Allies Must Show They Are Businesslike

PARIS, Dec. 30.—In an interview with M. Gustave Hervé, the Socialist editor and publisher of "La Victoire," Lord Northcliffe, shortly after his arrival in this city, declared that it was the German propaganda in America that delayed the entrance of the United States into the war. He said: "During the first period of the war many people in Europe were losing their patience with America on account of what they believed to be the slowness of the Americans in joining in the great crusade."

"As far as I am concerned, I have so often travelled through the various sections of the United States, which differ from each other as much as the various countries of Europe, and I know so well the gigantic force of German propaganda among the people, 15,000,000 of whom, it is said, are of German origin, that I never shared this impatience."

"Consult the Telephone Book"

"Consult the telephone book of a typical city like Cleveland and you will find that only 18 per cent are what you may call Americans of America. The rest are German-Americans, Austrian-Americans, Hungarians, Poles, Greeks, Ruthenes, Slovaks, Croats, Swedes, some negroes and certain types of ill-defined nationalities, a few Englishmen, Scotchmen, Frenchmen and Irishmen—this is the strange melange which M. Roosevelt calls 'our polyglot boarding-house.'"

"It was an easy task for German propagandists to convince a population of such a kind, a certain portion of which is European only in order to wage the war and military service, that France, England and Italy have thrown themselves on poor little Germany with motives of revenge, conquest and commerce."

"Long before the Allies learned the entire importance of the press, moving pictures and words whispered in their local residents, their insurance companies, their banks and their breweries—began a violent propaganda against the Allies in America. But in the end they were beaten."

"The Bolshevik organ 'Izvestia' insists on new elections of delegates to the Constituent Assembly in districts where those chosen 'do not express popular will,' such as constituencies where social revolutionaries and members of the right have been returned."

"When the Americans began to understand the real character of Germany, their anger continually increased, not only because of Germany's offences against their liberty and democracy but also on account of the treachery of von Bernstorff and the other German guests of the Republic against the nation they had deceived. It is thus that they entered the war with an entirely American enthusiasm, determination and thoroughness."

"Although they entered the war without any preparation, with the exception of the navy, which is excellent in certain respects, they have succeeded in six months in forming an army of a million and a quarter soldiers, many of whom are daily arriving in France."

Points to Naval Increase. "They have tripled the personnel of their navy, they have rapidly constructed a great number of naval units, they have built gigantic factories for the

Pan-German Press Urges Berlin People To Hiss Kuehlmann

Calls Him Betrayer of Army; Secretary to Report to the Kaiser on Peace Parley

LONDON, Dec. 30.—According to the Amsterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, the German Foreign Secretary, is expected to reach Berlin today on his return from the peace negotiations. He is to be received immediately by the Emperor, and after that will probably visit Field Marshal von Hindenburg's headquarters.

The Pan-German papers, says the dispatch, invite their readers to hiss von Kuehlmann when he arrives in Berlin for "betraying the German army."

Maximilian Harden asserts that Alsace cannot be considered an obstacle to peace.

Says Captives Eat Grass in Germany

1,500 Dined in Month of Starvation, Declares Canadian Back From Prison Camp

MONTREAL, Dec. 30.—Captives in German prison camps eating grass, starving German civilians beseeching the prisoners to sell them food, a prisoner bayoneted for trying to save others from burning to death—these were some of the horrors recounted by Alexander Fontaine, once a captive of the raiding Moave, who arrived here from Europe today.

Fontaine is a six-year-old French Canadian farmer. In November, 1916, he saw an advertisement for a foreman and requested employment at Mount Temple. He was engaged and they sailed November 28. Ten days later, when nearing the Irish coast, they encountered a vessel which opened fire on them, killing three sailors.

The captain signalled surrender and the crew was taken aboard the raider, which turned out to be the Moave.

For fifteen days the captives were kept in three German prison camps, sleeping with their clothes soaking in bilge water and being allowed out for air only one hour a day.

They were then transferred to a captured American ship, which landed them at Swinemunde, and they were hurried off to the prison camp at Brandenburg, where Fontaine spent eight months.

"I have seen starving men eat grass there," he said. "Over fifteen hundred prisoners died of starvation in a month, and but for the Red Cross supplies we would all have been dead. The civil population appeared to be starving also, for they brought us to sell them biscuits. The German guards were brutal. I saw one bayonet a prisoner who was trying to escape from a burning building in which a hundred lost their lives."

Fontaine was made to dig graves behind the trenches until crippled with rheumatism, when he was exchanged as an incapacitated prisoner.

Inter-Allied Labor Conference Soon Will Be Called

British and French Are Determined to Solidify Their Aims

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The British Labor party is taking steps to follow up the campaign for the solidarity of the workmen of the Entente Allies nations, in which a beginning has been made by the French and British labor organizations in framing their war aims. The next action contemplated is an assembly of the inter-Allied labor conferences.

The views of the American Federation of Labor will be invited, as a conference without American participation would be useless.

The Central News says that in yesterday's conference between Premier Lloyd George and the labor leaders the Premier made it clear that any proposal that British labor put forward can be dealt with by the Allied governments as a whole. Mr. Lloyd George said that as far as Great Britain was concerned there would be no separate peace, and he emphasized the understanding between the Entente powers that peace was impossible while the militarists ruled Germany, the Central News concluded.

The negotiations that are proceeding between Premier Lloyd George and the labor leaders over the government's program to obtain more men for the army are regarded as highly important. The Premier is asking for the cancellation of exemption of certain classes of labor, such as the Asquith peace formula, had Saturday's session preceded Friday's it would have made clearer to outsiders the reason for the present attitude of such a large body of the country toward peace.

The speeches on Saturday brought out something of the economic hardships endured by the working classes, and the loyal and patriotic leaders gave plain warning to the government that unless conditions were improved the confidence of the masses would grow worse.

Moderate Peace Plans Of British Labor Change Whole Political Front

[Staff Correspondence]

LONDON, Dec. 30.—No event in the last six months will have so important a bearing on the British political situation as the decision of the Labor Socialist parties to favor moderate peace formula. Had Saturday's session preceded Friday's it would have made clearer to outsiders the reason for the present attitude of such a large body of the country toward peace.

The speeches on Saturday brought out something of the economic hardships endured by the working classes, and the loyal and patriotic leaders gave plain warning to the government that unless conditions were improved the confidence of the masses would grow worse.

It is understood that a comparatively moderate man-power programme is being drawn. The draft action in regard to man-power just taken by France, where the youths of the 1919 class were called and it was decided to hold in reserve the oldest men, if followed here would defeat Britain.

Upon Britain's fall is not only the job of maintaining her army at full strength, but of supplying coal, grain, steel, ships and munitions in great quantities to France.

It is fully expected that the Western Allies will be forced to adopt the defensive for some months, and during that period Britain's task in supporting her allies will grow increasingly heavy.

The French anticipate extremely heavy attacks against their front line in January or in February, but they have no fear as to the ultimate result. Germany has been steadily massing troops and the opening of her new campaign depends largely on the weather.

Weather Halts Foe; Italians Reorganize

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The big guns are continuing their battle along the entire northern front in Italy, but the latest official reports contain no intimations of new infantry actions. The artillery activity is particularly noticeable in the region of Monte Tomba, on the western bank of the Upper Piave, and a few miles east, on both sides of Pederobba, Berlin reports to-night.

For the time being the severe weather conditions have brought a halt to the Austro-German offensive toward the Venetian plains. The mountain passes through which they must drive to reach the foothills between the Piave and the Tagliamento are choked with snowdrifts and the roads which the Teutons counted upon making use of are almost impassable.

The Italians are expected to make good use of this lull in the battle, reorganizing their army units and perfecting their defenses for the final blows which the enemy will surely deliver against them as soon as conditions make fighting on a large scale possible.

New Device of Death For Each Year of War

The war has produced one great new device of destruction for every year of its existence.

In 1914, the 42-centimeter gun, which rendered all previous fortifications useless.

In 1915, poison gas, which added a fresh terror to war.

In 1916, the "tank," which helped break the German line on the Somme.

In 1917, the depth bomb, which is conquering the submarine.

In 1918, the new instrument of destruction will be?

U.S. Troops Kill 6 Mexicans

EAGLE PASS, Tex., Dec. 30.—At least six Mexican bandits were killed in a fight with United States troops and Texas Rangers on Saturday at San José, Mexico, opposite the Indian ranch, twenty miles south of Eagle Pass, according to an official statement here today at military headquarters.

The Americans had crossed into Mexico on the trail of Mexican cattle thieves. There were no American casualties.

After the bandits, said to have numbered fifty, were routed the Americans returned to the Texas side. The pursuit of a "hot trail" across the border followed a series of raids on the Indian ranch, in which it is estimated that a thousand or more head of cattle had been driven across the Rio Grande.

Ship Stranded; Crew Saved

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 30.—An unknown steamer stranded off the coast here last night in a snowstorm and a northwest gale estimated at from sixty to eighty miles an hour. A life-saving crew got a line to the vessel, and reports late today indicated that the crew had been saved. Two unidentified steamers and a tug, supposed to be the W. B. Keene, with two barges, were forced to anchor. They were reported in good shape.



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Turkey Stumbling Block To German Peace Scheme

By Frank W. Getty

LONDON, Dec. 30.—"Turkey did not sink the Lusitania," declared Joseph Havelock Wilson, president of the International Seamen's Union, at the Labor Conference yesterday, and his remark was greeted with a storm of cheers.

There is still a large mass of opinion here that does not realize the importance, militarily and politically, of the Allies', and particularly Britain's, fight against this enemy. The United States, for its own reasons, does not recognize Turkey as an enemy, but, so far as Great Britain is concerned, there is reason to believe that Turkey is gradually assuming greater importance, and is likely to prove valuable—as an enemy—to the Entente.

German diplomacy scored over Allied diplomacy in the early days of the war and got Turkey into the conflict on the Teutonic side of the fence, but she is going to find it an increasingly difficult job to get her out whole.

Turkey Heavy Loser

Of the Central Powers, only Germany and Turkey have lost territory. Germany has lost her colonies as an inevitable consequence of her inferiority on the sea and possibly she will get them back after the war. Turkey has lost Palestine, Arabia and Mesopotamia without any excuse, and probably she will not get them back.

The German-Turkish discussion recently furnished good evidence that Turkey's fears are not unfounded, for German publicists set out that England's success in the East depended on Germany's success in Europe. Of course, they profess that Germany is determined to carry out her guarantees of Turkey's integrity, but there is a lack of conviction about these assurances, and the Turks do not conceal their anxiety.

German correspondents in Constantinople hint quite broadly of friction and bad relations between the Turks and the Germans. There is hardly need for hints, since Talat Pasha's announced policy for Turkey certainly does not fit in with German aspirations. He insists not upon a Turkey under German control, but upon a Turkey on equal terms with all comers.

Fears Betrayed. It is noted as a significant fact that, just as peace seems nearer for Germany, Austria and Bulgaria, it seems less desirable for Turkey, which has lost so much. But what troubles the Turks is the fear that Germany would much sooner hurry the war to an end at the expense of Turkey than to continue it indefinitely in the hope of recovering lost provinces for a Turkey which announces in advance its entire lack of any sentiment of obligation or gratitude.

It would seem that this situation presents an opportunity for diplomatic and military strategy by the Allies. As far as diplomatic strategy is being employed—if it is—it is well concealed, but militarily Britain at least is doing very well indeed. The British campaigns in Mesopotamia, under the late General Maude, and in Palestine, under General Allenby, have been the cleanest cut victories achieved by British arms anywhere since the war began. The two events of Maude's capture of

Bagdad and of Allenby's capture of Jerusalem crowned each campaign with a success of definite political value, which already is having effect elsewhere.

The Original school in this country should be paid to the East than to the West—is gaining supporters rapidly these days in spite of the recent extravagant expectations of a big German offensive in the West, which, being nearer home, naturally has overshadowed everything else in the public mind. The war in France has always been more real to the people here than the war in the East, but just recently two extremes of journalistic opinion, "The Manchester Guardian" and "The Saturday Review," united in calling attention to the importance of the war with Turkey.

Turk Campaign Important. "This is a war of Turkish succession, and all other aims are mere symbols," said the former, while the latter declared: "British troops have captured a considerable portion of Asiatic Turkey, and presumably Britain means to keep it."

There has not been much discussion about the effect of the Russian armistice on the operations in Mesopotamia, but the dispatches of the late General Maude showed the importance he attached to Russian cooperation on his right wing. In his advances up the Tigris he always moved obliquely, with the right wing thrown well forward, because on the right flank and over the Persian border lay the chief danger to his communications.

By the articles of the armistice both the Russians and the Turks retire from Persia, but the Turks still occupy some heights, and even if they retire from Persia can go back again much more quickly than the Russians, who have lost all interest in Persia, anyhow.

It is the first condition of any British advance toward Mosul that this Persian flank should be made absolutely secure. But this is the most part the greatest disadvantage of the situation lies with the enemy, for Turkey is finding herself the only country to whom the Allied powers, even the United States, are openly unwilling to return the territories taken.

Helped by enemies and friends alike, Turkey is extremely likely to prove herself an unwelcome passenger on the German band wagon.

Técla Pearls This New Year for Her

It is one thing to have a gift appreciated for the spirit in which it is given, and quite another thing to have a gift appreciated—as a gift!

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